

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (*i.e.*, Claims 11, 12 and 15-17) are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

At the outset, it should be recognized that the present invention, as now claimed, provides a hose reel assembly, which includes a hose reel spool having a riser there-through for providing a fluid path in combination with the unitary, or upright, support member of the invention. The upright support member, as now recited in Applicants' claims, includes a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub to which the hose reel spool is connectable on only one side of the hub via a plurality of studs and is securable to the one side of the hub with only a single lug nut for each stud of the plurality of studs – each stud having a lug nut on only one end of each stud – with an integrated frame housing being provided for the upright support member and the hose reel spool.

In contrast to prior art assemblies, which generally provide spools for housing the hose mounted on a frame and supported between two axial bearing hub assemblies with cranking means located at one end, the presently claimed hose reel assembly has an automotive hub to which the hose reel spool is connected on only one side of the hub via a plurality of studs for ready placement and removal.

As will be explained in greater detail hereinafter, nowhere in the prior art is such a novel and efficient hose reel assembly, which includes a laterally extending motor and

gearbox and hub, to which said hose reel spool is connectable on only one side of the hub via a plurality of studs and securable to the one side of the hub with only a single lug nut for each stud of the plurality of studs with each stud having a lug nut on only one end of each stud, either disclosed or suggested.

By the present amendments, Applicants have amended independent Claim 11 (and all remaining claims via dependency) to now specify that the hose reel spool of the invention is connectable, or able to be mounted, on only one side of the hub assembly via plurality of studs for ready replacement and removal, and that the hose reel spool is also --securable to said one side of said hub with only a single lug nut for each stud of said plurality of studs, each said stud having a lug nut on only one end of said stud--, which is respectfully submitted to clearly distinguish over the applied reference of Gear.

Independent Claim 11 has also been amended to correct an obvious grammatical error.

Accompanying the present *Amendment in Response to the Final Office Action*, Applicants are filing a *Request for Continued Examination* and formal *Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time* for response, and remitting all required fees. Accordingly, the “finality” of the last Office Action should be withdrawn and the foregoing amendments presented herein entered, and considered on their merits, as a matter of right.

Turning now, in detail, to an analysis of the Examiner’s prior art rejection, in the most recent final Office Action the Examiner has again rejected independent Claim 11

and various dependent claims as being anticipated, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b), by Gear, U.S. Patent No. 2,301,208. It is the Examiner's contention that the applied citation of Gear shows a hose reel with a hub (26), bearing and axle, at a lower portion of FIGS. 1 and 3, and a riser (40), along with spool sections (15, 18). The Examiner has further stated that the rods (20) illustrated in Gear "are read as studs," thereby anticipating the combination of elements recited in independent Claim 11.

In reply to the Examiner's anticipation rejection applying Gear, the applied citation discloses a hose reel apparatus that has a spool mounted between two hubs, as best shown in FIG. 1 of Gear. In contrast to that taught and suggested by Gear, the present invention, as most broadly claimed in Applicants' Claim 11, includes an upright support member having "a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub to which [the] hose reel spool is connectable on only one side of said hub via a plurality of studs."

As now further amended, independent Claim 11 states that the hose reel spool "is securable to said one side of said hub with only a single lug nut for each stud of said plurality of studs, each said stud having a lug nut on only one end of said stud." While Applicants respectfully contend that the Examiner's analogy of a "rod" to a "stud" is of debatable validity, but appears to have been necessary for supporting the Examiner's anticipation rejection which applies Gear, with reference to FIG. 5 of Gear, it would appear that the rod (20) in Gear extends between two flanges (16, 19) and, consequently, the rod (20) – or stud – in Gear has one nut on each of two ends. The written disclosure of Gear states (at Col. 2, lines 13-17) that the "assembly by rods **20** extend[] through

registering openings in the flanges and [are] releasably secured by nuts **21** threaded on the ends of the rods.” The rods (20) in Gear, unlike the studs of the presently claimed invention, are secured in place by nuts (21) at each of two ends of the rods and serve an entirely different purpose. As now recited in Applicants’ independent Claim 11, each stud has “a lug nut on only one end of said stud” (emphasis added), thereby structurally distinguishing the claimed invention over Gear.

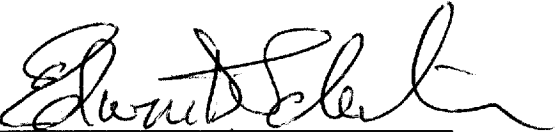
In view of the laterally extending arrangement of a motor and gearbox and hub, to which the hose reel spool is connected on only one side of the hub via a plurality of studs, and secured by a lug nut on only one end of the stud, as now claimed, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s 35 U.S.C. §102(b) anticipation rejection of the final Office Action has been overcome and should now be appropriately withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully contended that all claims now pending in the above-identified patent application (*i.e.*, Claims 11, 12 and 15-17) recite a novel and efficient hose reel assembly, which includes a laterally extending motor and gearbox and hub, to which a hose reel spool is connectable on only one side of the hub via a plurality of studs and securable to the one side of the hub with only a single lug nut for each stud of the plurality of studs with each stud having a lug nut on only one end of each stud, which is patentably distinguishable over the prior art. Accordingly, withdrawal of

the outstanding rejection and the allowance of all claims now pending are respectfully requested and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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- Enc.: 1. Petition for Three-Month Extension of Time for Response;
2. *Request for Continued Examination*, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.114; and,
3. EFT for \$960.00 (*Request for Continued Examination* filing fee + Three-Month Extension Fee).

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Applicant's Attorney (Account No. 19-0450) for any fees or costs pertaining to the prosecution of the above-identified patent application, but which have not otherwise been provided for.